GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2467
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2004
PRODUCTION OF PADDY
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) The annual paddy production in the country during the last three years, particularly from Tamil Nadu;

(b) Whether the cultivable land for paddy production is shrinking year after year in the delta region in Tamil Nadu;

(c) If so, whether the scarcity of rainfall and lesser amount of storage and discharge of water from Mettur reservoir results in lower output of paddy production;

(d) If so, the amount of loss incurred by the farmers in Tamil Nadu during the last three years; and

(e) The steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate quantity of water for the farmers in the delta region and also to boost paddy production in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIKANTI LALBHURIA)

(a) : The annual production of Paddy in the country as a whole as well as in Tamil Nadu during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in the following table:

Production of Paddy in Million Tonnes

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Tamil Nadu	9.87	5.37	6.23
All-India	140.01	108.99	130.50

As per the advance estimates released on 5.8.2004.

(b): According to information given by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the area under paddy in 8 delta districts in Tamil Nadu which are Tiruchirapalli, Karur, Pudukkottai, Perambalur, Thanjavur, Thiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Cuddalore is as under:

(in `000 hectares)

Year	Area under Paddy
2000-01	896.22
2001-02	863.61
2002-03	687.21

(c) : Annual Rainfall in Tamilnadu (in mm)

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Year	Actual	Normal	Deviation
2000-01	785.3	979.3	-19.8
2001-02	795.2	947.7	-18.4
2002-03	731.0	964.1	-24.2

As per the information given by the Central Water Commission, the water level

(in Meters) in the Mettur Dam in Tamil Nadu during the first week of August for the last three years are as follows:

Year	Water level (Meter)
4.8.2002	217.32
4.8.2003	212.68
4.8.2004	227.17

(&): According to the information received from the Government of Tamil Nadu, there was no loss in 2001-02 while the loss to farmers amounted to Rs.5013.35 crore and Rs.2638.55 crore in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

The following steps are taken in the delta region to boost paddy production:

1. Suitable medium, short duration varieties of paddy are recommended.

2. Popularisation of Hybrid Rice is taken on a large scale so as to increase the paddy

large scale so as to increase the paddy production.

3. Suitable crop insurance coverage for paddy is also taken care of.

4.Water management technologies are disseminated to paddy growing fanners.

5. Rain water harvesting such as farm ponds are constructed for the benefit of farming community.